

11). SANIZE office is providing consultancy to Nilgiri Biosphere Conservation Park for design of signage, interpretation, and other educational products.

Some Education materials developed in the current year were:

- Teaching Manual on Getting along with Elephants and on Dancing (Sloth) Bears.
- Education Packets and other items on Climate Change, Dancing Bears, Hoolock Gibbon, Elephants (Human Elephant Coexistence), Monkeys (Conflict Resolution), Amphibians and common wildlife spp.
- Produced
 - Count Down 2010 Posters on Hoolock Gibbon and Amphibian Crisis,
 - Activity-based colouring books for Amphibians and Bats and Drama kits plus,
 - Guideline books for Using Drama in Public Education for: Amphibians, Asian Elephant, Bears, and Hoolock Gibbon.

Some Projects for future 2010 with funding status

- IUCN Red List assessment in Himalayan

Freshwater Biodiversity workshop, South Asia, venue to be announced (*funded by IUCN*).

- IUCN SSC Global Assessment Programme, South Asian Reptile Assessments (*funded by CEPF*).
- IUCN Assessments of fresh water biodiversity in Western Ghats and in Eastern Himalaya (*funded by IUCN*).
- Population and habitat Viability Assessment Workshop for Asian Elephant and Training on MIKE: Systematic Monitoring of Elephants using Dung DNA –(USFWS and partners) venue to be confirmed (*funded by USFWS and partners*).
- PHVA for Red Panda, Red Panda Management Group & National Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal, Fall 2010 (exact venue in Nepal to be confirmed (*confirmed*)).
- Three sets training workshops in Human Elephant Coexistence, Sri Lanka, Sumatra, Thailand (funded by USFWS and partners) 2009-2010.
- Two refresher workshops (follow up) on Human Elephant Coexistence HECx to be held in Nepal and Bangladesh (*funded by USFWS and partners*) 2010.
- Annual CBSG RSG South Asian and SAZARC Feb/March 2010 in Nepal (*confirmed*).

Annual Report of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Gordon Reid

WAZA Members and Associates,

At the WAZA Annual Congress to be held in Saint Louis 4-8th October 2009 I come to the end of my Presidency. Being President has been a most varied, enjoyable and fulfilling experience but it is now time to hand over to my very capable and distinguished colleague Dr Mark Penning. Mark is Chief Executive of the S. African Association of Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) and its allied aquarium & leisure attraction Ushaka Marine World.

WAZA Council and Committees

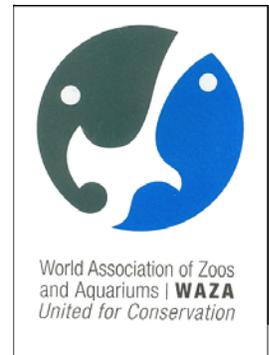
The WAZA Council has seen the departure of serving members. We thank them for their dedicated service, while at the same time welcoming several new Council and Committee Members. After being elected at the Budapest Conference in 2007, it sadly became necessary for Dr Laura Mumaw to step down as my Vice President (and the President-elect) in 2008. This was because she had left her position at Melbourne Zoo for a prestigious opportunity elsewhere, outside of the zoo and aquarium world. The Nominating Committee, led by Dr Karen Sausman, proposed Dr Mark Penning for Vice President (and President-elect) and Council agreed with this excellent proposal. This left one vacant position among the Council Members at large. Hence, in January 2009 (in accordance with the WAZA By-Laws), Sally Walker was proposed by the Nominations Committee and Council ratified her to fill this gap.

You will recall that the 63rd Annual Conference of WAZA was held 19-23rd October 2008 in Adelaide,

Australia. The Conference was superbly hosted on behalf of Zoos South Australia by Dr Chris West, Chief Executive, and ran concurrently with the International Zoo Educators (IZE) Conference. New Members of the Membership Committee elected at the Adelaide Conference are:

Cesare Avesani (Parco Natura Viva, Italy); Kenichi Kitamura (JAZA, Japan) and Fanny Lai (Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore). For the Ethics and Welfare Committee, six new Members were ratified, namely: Chris West (Chair, Zoos South Australia); David Jones (North Carolina Zoo, USA); Theo Pagel (Cologne Zoo, Germany); Amy Camacho (Africam Safari Puebla, Mexico); Clifford Nxomani (National Zoo, Pretoria, South Africa) and Hideyuki Takahashi (Ueno Zoo, Japan). Last but not least, four new Members were ratified to be appointed to the Finance Committee: Jerry Borin (Chair, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, USA); Jörg Junhold (Leipzig Zoo, Germany); Olivier Pagan (Basel Zoo, Switzerland) and Fanny Lai (Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore).

The results of the 2009 WAZA Council ballot were issued in July. As indicated above, the next WAZA President will be Mark Penning and his President-elect is Jörg Junhold - with Jo Gipps, Ryzsard Topola and Chris West remaining on Council. Newly elected Council Members are: Lee Ehmke (Minnesota Zoological Gardens, USA); Rick Barongi (Houston Zoo, USA); Joanne Lalumière (Granby Zoo, Canada) and Cesare Avesani (Parco Natura Viva, Italy).



Leaving Council Members - At the conclusion of this year's WAZA Conference in St Louis, USA, Dr Jeff Bonner (St Louis Zoo, USA), Jerry Borin (Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, USA) and Sally Walker (Tamil Nadu, India) step down from Council. Jeff was also Chair of the Programme Committee, the WAZA-IZE Education Committee and the WAZA/IUCN Amphibian Ark (AARK). Jerry was Chair of the Membership Committee and also the Finance Committee. WAZA thanks to them all for jobs well done.

Heini Heidigger Award - In Adelaide, among many pleasant duties, I was delighted to preside over a farewell event to mark the retirement of Dr Peter Dollinger, Executive Director of WAZA. Peter had conferred upon him the Heini Hediger Award, in recognition of a life-long commitment and service to veterinary science, zoos, animal welfare, statutory regulation and global conservation. Peter's successor, who fully took over after the Adelaide meeting, is Dr Gerald Dick who is already having a major beneficial impact on WAZA. We warmly welcome him in this new post! I should note that Gerald's Personal Assistant Sabine Gyger left the WAZA Secretariat office for a new career on 23 April 2009, after more than seven years of service. WAZA thanks her for this and extends a warm welcome to Natasha Jackson. She joined the WAZA Secretariat office in Berne, in March as Office Manager and Accountant. Ulrike Fox joined in May as the WAZA Marketing and Communications Officer. WAZA thanks all of the executive team for their most professional services.

WAZA Corporate Strategy

A WAZA Corporate Strategy Planning Workshop was held 17th and 18th January 2009, generously hosted by Jo Gipps, Director of Bristol Zoological Gardens. The Council team worked closely with Gerald and an external facilitator and we made great strides forward in developing a new vision for the future. WAZA Members and other key stakeholders have since been given an opportunity to comment and help develop the draft Corporate Strategy, before it is formally launched at this year's WAZA Congress. This will set the strategic direction for WAZA for the next 5 years and Gerald will present on it at the WAZA Congress in Saint Louis. One particularly important strategic decision taken by Council was to move WAZA headquarters from Bern to Gland in Switzerland to join IUCN, WWF and other major conservation NGOs in the same building. This will greatly facilitate international high-level conservation cooperation.

I attended the 'WAZA and partners' meeting held in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, 14 -20th March 2009. On the agenda at the WAZA Council meeting was determining the venue for the 2014 WAZA Annual Conference. We viewed conference hosting proposals on behalf of Africam Safari and Zoo, Mexico; Central Zoo Authority (CZA), India; Universe, Goteborg, Sweden; Al Ain Zoo, UAE and

Chester Zoo, England. After much debate, Council decided to accept the impressive bid of the CZA and I congratulate India on this success. WAZA thanks all of the other excellent candidates and encourages re-application bids in future years to host the Congress. In Al Ain, I was also delighted to join in strategy meetings of the IUCN Conservation Specialist Group (IUCN-CBSG) and International Species Information System (ISIS).

Regional Zoo and Aquarium Associations

WAZA has worked to strengthen bonds with the regional associations by inviting representatives as observer members in WAZA Council meetings. The associations' voice is also now clearly heard through their own WAZA committee. In previous years I have managed to attend PAZAAB, CZA, AAZPA and AZA annual Meetings. This year, Gerald and I participated in the *16th Annual ALPZA Conference, City of Panama*, held in the Republic of Panama, 25-29th May. The Association of Zoos and Aquaria in Latin America (ALPZA) kindly invited me to give a keynote presentation on 'WAZA Partnering with ALPZA and Regional Zoos'. ALPZA's general mission of promoting the cooperation between Latin American zoos and aquariums and, indeed, the worldwide zoo community was a general aim of the Conference. ALPZA was formed in 1990 and has been a WAZA member since 2004, working actively within the international community. It is a trans-national, not-for-profit organization that brings together zoological institutions and aquariums across Latin America, with the purpose of promoting their integrated development. ALPZA members span 13 countries and include 42 institutions, 18 individual members, and 3 National Associations and organizations. They all work well together and also strongly support WAZA's efforts. In the European region, I will shortly be attending the *26th Annual Conference of EAZA*, hosted by Copenhagen Zoo 15-19th September. In the USA I look forward to giving a keynote address to the International Congress on Zoo Keeping (ICZ/AAZK) Conference, Seattle, 24 - 29th September 2009.

WAZA/IUCN Relationships

A Zoo Community/IUCN-Species Survival Commission Meeting was held on 16th January 2009 at Bristol Zoo. Gerald and I represented WAZA, alongside Simon Tonge (EAZA and BIAZA), Lesley Dickie (EAZA) and Miranda Stevenson (BIAZA). The meeting was with Simon Stuart, in his new capacity as Chair of the IUCN-SSC (see below). Simon's position is now financially supported in part by WAZA. This meeting was to exchange information and ideas on the various activities of and growing connectivity between the IUCN, WAZA, EAZA, BIAZA and many other zoo and aquarium partners. It was also to discuss the future relationship between WAZA and IUCN as a whole, the IUCN-SSC in particular. The meeting followed the signing of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding between WAZA and IUCN on 17th December 2008. The MOU was forged with the aim of increasing public awareness of

conservation issues and improving access to the relevant research carried out in zoos and aquariums. This MOU will also increase positive and direct impacts for conservation *in situ* as the two organisations work ever more closely together, creating synergy.

WAZA/IUCN Amphibian Ark

While in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (see above), I chaired a Strategic Planning meeting for the Amphibian Ark (AARK) on 17th March 2009. Under the guidance of AARK Programme Officer Kevin Zippel, we reviewed the current vision, mission and values; prioritized a 5-year work plan and allocated responsibilities and tasks; reviewed the constitution and governance arrangements, financial requirements and opportunities for fundraising. One outcome was a prospective closer working relationship between the AARK and the IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) on *ex situ/in situ* relationships for the IUCN Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP). There was also agreement for the AARK to work towards becoming a membership-based organisation. This development, it is hoped, will help AARK collaborators, partners and supporters to feel that, as well as being a source of substantial income, they truly belong to a significant and representative organisation. Key contributors included co-chairs Lena Lindén (CBSG and WAZA) and Don Church (ASG and Conservation International); and the fine AARK executive team of Kevin Zippel, Ron Gagliardo, Richard Gibson, Robert Browne and Kevin Johnson.

A Global Amphibian Extinction Crisis Symposium was held at the Linnean Society of London on 6th November 2008. I gave the introductory and closing presentations to an audience of Fellows of the Society. The EAZA Director, Lesley Dickie, was instrumental in organising the symposium, for which we thank her. The aim of the meeting was to examine the scientific reasons for the decline in the world's amphibian populations and also debate possible solutions to these problems.

A larger symposium on '*Halting the Global Decline in Amphibians: Research and Practice*', 20-21st November 2008, was organised by Zoological Society of London. Again, EAZA Director Lesley Dickie was the key driver. I chaired scientific sessions and delivered the closing summary. We also held a brief AARK Committee Meeting. Co-chairs Lena Lindén and Don Church both actively participated along with Kevin Zippel. The keynote speaker at this meeting was Sir David Attenborough and there were some 200 delegates drawn from all around the globe. At both the above meetings, we were able to strongly promote the WAZA/AARK 2008 'Year of the Frog' initiative, which has achieved so much in terms of education, public awareness and fundraising around the globe, producing the equivalent of many hundreds of thousands of dollars of support.

Amphibian Survival Alliance

In late August 2009, I participated in the Amphibian Conservation 'Mini-Summit' and Workshop. This was convened by IUCN-SSC at the Regent's Park Zoo, London. We discussed important global updates on work *ex situ* and *in situ* and there was a proposal to integrate amphibian conservation activities at a higher international level by forming an Amphibian Survival Alliance. This was to be the first of a series of meetings to be held every two years. Each meeting will review the status of research and conservation of amphibians, including the 11 primary 'extinction risk' themes within the ACAP. In London, we worked to identify where need and opportunity are intersecting to create two or three high priority 'pinnacle' initiatives. Summit participants and their partners will pursue these initiatives, separately or combined, to achieve conservation goals for amphibians. The Amphibian Survival Alliance will provide a new, much-needed global platform to launch essential large-scale conservation operations both in nature and off-site for frogs and allied species and raise funds. WAZA applauds this initiative and will work in partnership with stakeholders to ensure the alliance is successful in whatever form it takes. Prof Manfred Niekisch, Director, Zoologischer Garten Frankfurt, Germany will present the results of the Amphibian Mini-Summit at the WAZA Conference in Saint Louis and outline the possibilities for the ASA.

Conservation and Sustainability

Alongside Gerald Dick, I attended the *4th IUCN World Conservation Congress* in Barcelona, Spain, 5-12 October 2008. This was in my capacity as WAZA President and as Chair of both the WAZA/IUCN Amphibian Ark and IUCN/WI Freshwater Fish Specialist Group. This is the world's largest conservation summit attended by more than 10,000 delegates from Governments, NGOs, businesses, the UN and academic institutions. WAZA framed up a number of motions for the formal IUCN business sessions and all of these were co-sponsored by other conservation bodies and passed by the Congress. An agreement on the motion to develop a Global Species Congress, will be of particular interest to WAZA members, who often have a particular focus on individual species or particular taxonomic groups. I was on the 'panel of experts' for two separate workshops and took a strong position on the value of zoos for raising awareness of the importance of species. I attended key IUCN Species Survival Commission events, including the launch and review of the 2008 Red List of Threatened Species. Gerald and I promoted the work of the world's zoos and aquariums to congress delegates from a WAZA stand in the Exhibition Hall – the only zoo-based display at the Congress. The outcomes of election ballots at the Congress were that Ashok Khosla was voted in as the new President of IUCN and Dr Simon Stuart took over from Dr Holly Dublin as Chair of Species Survival Commission (IUCN-SSC).

Welfare & Ethics

There has been strong liaison between myself, WAZA Council, Committees and other stakeholder regarding concerns on ethical and welfare issues, notably including the issue of acquisition of live-stock for aquariums through dolphin drive fisheries. In July 2009, Gerald Dick, Chris West (Chair, Ethics & Welfare Committee), and I travelled to Tokyo in order to discuss aspects of dolphin welfare and conservation with the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums and others. We felt that we made real progress in discussions with our Japanese colleagues with regard to a commitment to begin a separate, gentler 'herding exercise' as a means of acquisition of wild dolphins for aquariums. This stands in contrast to the controversial drive fisheries currently used for acquisition. We also placed emphasis on the need to develop new, progressively more demanding, benchmarks in dolphin breeding in JAZA and other aquariums. This is to learn more about dolphin reproduction and also gradually decrease the pressure on wild populations. Subject to detailed discussions, it is hoped that a new Dolphin Management Protocol will be jointly agreed between JAZA and WAZA by time of WAZA 2009 Congress in Saint Louis, USA.

Science and Veterinary Care

A WAZA-supported 'Frozen Ark' consortium initiative for genome resource banking for conservation and science is progressing well. Prof Heribert Hofer (Chair of the WAZA Scientific and Veterinary Committee) and I are both Trustees. I gave a keynote address on Genome Resource Banking at a Bio and Cryobanking Conference hosted by the University of Trier, Germany, 17-21 June 2008 and organised by Dominik Lerman. Prof Oliver Ryder, Scientific Director of San Diego Zoo, and myself chaired workshops during the Conference which, among other things, resulted in the formation of an Amphibian Biobanking Advisory Committee (ABAC), the secretariat of which is kindly hosted by the Institute of Zoology, London (ZSL). I am one of the contributors to the ensuing multi-author conference paper in the *Journal of Molecular Ecology*: 'Cryobanking of viable biomaterials: implementation of new strategies for conservation purposes'.

There was agreement in principle from WAZA Council for me to broker arrangements for the further development of the international nutritional computer programme *Zootrition* with the longer-term view of making this software ISIS-ZIMS compatible and transferring custody of the programme to the International Species Information System.

Aquariums

The *2008 FishBase Symposium on Endangered Fishes* took place in Stockholm, Sweden, 2-4 November 2008, and I participated, at the invitation of *FishBase Sweden*, to promote the role of public aquariums in marine and freshwater fish conservation. I chaired an IUCN/WI-FFSG Global Freshwater Biodiversity Planning Meeting, Chester

Zoo, 6/7 April 2009. The Committee discussed the FFSG's core strategy and identified priorities, targets and deliverables for the coming year. Key participants included Conservation International's Freshwater Species Program and Fundraising Manager, IUCN's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit Manager and Wetland International's Head of Strategy for Biodiversity and Ecological Networks. Wetlands International (WI) reported on their important Peatlands' Biodiversity Project in South Asia and outlined plans for a new draft Memorandum of Understanding between WI and the FFSG. IUCN and Conservation International (CI) gave a progress report on the proposed Global Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment (GFBA) – an initiative to assess all freshwater fishes, molluscs, dragonflies and damselflies and a number of aquatic plants for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The group identified a number of opportunities for integrating the work of public aquariums into the GFBA programme.

Species recovery tied in with habitat restoration is becoming a major new area of engagement for the zoo and aquarium community. I was pleased to be invited to give a keynote address and chair a session at the first ever Fish Restoration Conference, hosted in part by the Aquazoo and Löbbecke Museum, Dusseldorf, 1-4th September 2009. I highlighted the strong complimentary links between work *in situ* and *ex situ* conducted in zoos, aquariums, universities, museums, fish hatcheries and wildlife agencies. Dr. Wolfgang Gettman, Director of the Aquazoo kindly gave me a guided tour around his wonderful facility and explained exciting new expansion plans.

The Coral Reef Crisis: Addressing the threats of climate change and ocean acidification conference was held at the Royal Society, London, England on 6th July 2009 with an introduction by Sir David Attenborough and keynote address by Professor J.E.N. Veron concerning the danger of major ecosystem collapse. Coral reefs are directly impacted by the synergistic effects of global warming and ocean acidification and are likely to be placed into a situation of irreversible decline if immediate steps are not taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. In December 2009, Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be meeting in Copenhagen to discuss and hopefully agree to greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The scientific and conservation community has a critical role to play in informing the decision makers involved in the UNFCCC talks about the level of greenhouse gas emissions cuts required to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change and ocean acidification. Professor Veron is the former Chief Scientist of the Australian Institute of Marine Science and widely regarded as the world's leading authority on coral reef ecosystems. He has extensively researched the highly synergistic threats posed to coral reef ecosystems by global

warming and ocean acidification. As WAZA President I was happy to formally endorse the Technical Working Group Statement produced by Prof Veron and colleagues. The WAZA Aquarium Committee will now look to engage with public aquariums to advance the coral conservation programme in all its various aspects.

Global Aquarium Strategy

A WAZA publication entitled *'Turning the Tide: A Global Aquarium Strategy for Conservation and Sustainability'* has now been finalized and will be launched at this year's WAZA Congress in Saint Louis. The production of this important new strategy document has been led by Dr Mark Penning, current

Chair of the WAZA Aquarium Committee. There are key contributions to this document from eminent aquatic biologists and conservationists. As well as being keenly anticipated in the zoo and aquarium world, this publication is being welcomed by leading global conservation NGOs including the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Conservation International, Wetlands International and RAMSAR. They have all agreed to officially endorse the document. We are also pleased to have the support of the International Aquarium Forum (IAF) and the European Union of Aquarium Curators (EUAC), among other stakeholders.

Respectfully, Gordon Reid, WAZA President

Relationship between Zoo Outreach Organisation and South Asian Zoo Association with World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Zoo Outreach Organisation is closely related to the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums WAZA through our Affiliate Membership in WAZA.

Zoo Outreach Organisation supports the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation SAZARC, a zoo association with Associate Membership in WAZA.

Zoo Outreach Organisation hosts and supports the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, the IUCN Specialist Group which was originally founded to liaise with zoos and guide them in their efforts to support wildlife conservation with captive breeding.

Zoo Outreach Organisation ZOO and Wildlife Information Liaison Development WILD are the only two registered entities in ZOO's. ZOO and WILD are both registered Societies under the Tamil Nadu Registration Act. ZOO has converted to a Trust. The taxon based networks of ZOO and WILD could be considered as sustained and endless Projects.

SAZARC is a bit different. SAZARC has rules and objectives sufficient to qualify for Associate Membership in WAZA. Its status is a Special Project of Zoo Outreach Organisation, meaning that when it becomes mature and financially secure enough, it may become an organisation on its own.

ZOO plans and conducts an Annual Conference of SAZARC, in the same manner that other Associations have conferences. However, in case of SAZARC, the administrative, economic, psychological and political peculiarities and rules, it seems impossible for zoo personnel to obtain funding to attend SAZARC. Only Sri Lankan government has sent their officers at the expense of the concerned Ministry. So ZOO has to raise the entire amount of the conference and does so by submitting requests and grant proposals to the international zoo community and international NGO's. Whatever is raised is spent on the travel, accommodation, resource persons, and other costs of the conference. If there are funds left over, the funds are carried over to next year's conference, and occasionally used to

send zoo personnel in the region to trainings and meetings when indicated. ZOO doesn't take a percentage or use any of the funds to pay salaries or other administrative costs, so ZOO is also a sponsor of the SAZARC conference and any other thing done in its name.

During Dr. Brij Sharma's term as CZA Member Secretary, he requested that CBSG make all directors of Large and Medium zoos members of CBSG. This was not possible for all due to the size limitations of Specialist Groups, so Chair, CBSG requested that the others become members of CBSG, South Asia. CBSG, South Asia as well as Reintroduction Specialist Group, South Asia sent an invitation to all of the Indian zoo directors, but few responded. Dr. Sharma also encouraged the Large zoos to become members of WAZA. For an individual zoo to become a WAZA member they have to belong to a Regional Association. SAZARC declared all South Asian Zoos as members long ago but agreed to send a formal certification of association membership if a zoo wanted to become a member of WAZA. Brij Sharma also managed to get over 50 LMS zoos signed up to ISIS. This is the largest single contribution that anyone has ever made to giving a genuine future in effective conservation to Indian zoos. Being members of ISIS will propel the Indian and South Asian zoo community into 21st Century zoo management after decades of lagging behind. Our hat is off to Dr. Sharma for this and many other achievements.

ZOO is aware of the discussions which have taken place in Indian zoo meetings about ZOO and SAZARC. Despite such, ZOO stands behind its promise to assist in any way possible if a zoo wants to apply for membership in WAZA. ZOO has always acted on principles of positive and constructive action, non-duplication of effort and trying (unlike in the old South Asian folk story of the crabs) to help the crabs get out of the bucket instead of pulling them back !

Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur & Zoo Crew